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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/328,066	06/08/1999	STEPHEN WILLIAM HILLIER	0500.01326	6282

7590 04/18/2003

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EXAMINER

LANIER, BENJAMIN E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2132

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DATE MAILED: 04/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/328,066

Applicant(s)

HILLIER ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin E Lanier

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 10, 11, 18, 23-28, 32, 33, 36, 37 and 40-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9, 12-17, 19-22, 29-31, 34, 35, 38, 39 and 44-47 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 June 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment of claims 5, 12, and 34 has been fully considered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see paper 5, filed April 7th, 2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-4, 10, 11, 16-18, 20-22, 36, 37, and 39-43 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Ford, U.S. Patent No. 5,481,613.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, 10, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ford, U.S. Patent No. 5,481,613. Referring to claims 1-4, 10, 18, 23, 24, 27, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40-43, Ford discloses a cryptographic key distribution system wherein the encryptor (first party) of a data message sends to a decryptor (second party) attributes recognized by a key release agent (third party, force communication between second and third party), data enabling the message decryption key and the access control attributes to be recovered are sent to the decryptor in an access controlled decryption block which is encrypted under a separate key (double key). The access controlled decryption block can only be decrypted

by a key release agent in the correct security domain. The key release agent recovers the decryption key and supplies it to the decryptor, which allows the decryptor to recover the original data message (Abstract, Col. 4, lines 12-63).

Referring to claim 28, Ford discloses digitally signing the public keys upon distribution (Col. 2, lines 30-44).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 11, 25, 26, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ford, U.S. Patent No. 5,481,613, in view of Perlman, U.S. Patent No. 5,351,295. Referring to claims 11, 25, and 26, Ford discloses a cryptographic key distribution system wherein the encryptor (first party) of a data message sends to a decryptor (second party) attributes recognized by a key release agent (third party, force communication between second and third party), data enabling the message decryption key and the access control attributes to be recovered are sent to the decryptor in an access controlled decryption block which is encrypted under a separate key (double key). The access controlled decryption block can only be decrypted by a key release agent in the correct security domain. The key release agent recovers the decryption key and supplies it to the decryptor, which allows the decryptor to recover the original data message (Abstract, Col. 4, lines 12-63). Ford does not disclose providing a time stamp with the data. Perlman discloses a time stamp that is encrypted and sent along with the data (Col. 2, lines 53-

59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a time stamp in the cryptographic key distribution system of Ford in order to prevent attacks on the data as discloses in Perlman (Col. 2, lines 49-59).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-9, 12-17, 19-22, 29-31, 34, 35, 38, 39, and 44-47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 34 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 35. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin E Lanier whose telephone number is (703)-305-7684. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 7:30am to 5:00pm, F from 7:30am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron, can be reached on (703)-305-1830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)-746-7239, after final (703)-746-7238, or non-official/draft (703)-746-7240.

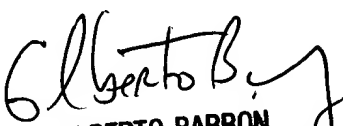
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

BA


GILBERTO BARRON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100